

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2023

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan... [X] a single-employer plan [] a DFE... B This return/report is: [] the first return/report [] the final return/report... C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here... D Check box if filing under: [X] Form 5558 [] automatic extension... E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here...

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN 1b Three-digit plan number (PN) 001 1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2020 2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. 11516 MAIN STREET LOUISVILLE, KY 40243 2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 85-0879429 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 502-244-0065 2d Business code (see instructions) 453990

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2023) v. 230707

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	171
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	150
	6a(2)	138
	6b	2
	6c	23
	6d	163
	6e	1
	6f	164
	6g(1)	142
	6g(2)	159
h	6h	15
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2Q 3I 3H 2I 2P

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A Name of plan COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 85-0879429

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets			
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)		
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	7482000	10388000
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	7482000	10388000
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	908356	878924
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	908356	878924
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	6573644	9509076

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	55941	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		55941
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	2906000	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		
c Other income.....	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		2961941

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	17335	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		17335
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		9174
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances.....	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees.....	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees.....	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees.....	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees.....	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees.....	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses.....	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11).....	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		26509

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		2935432
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **HARDING SHYMANSKI & CO.**

(2) EIN: **35-1346211**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan <u>COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>85-0879429</u>	

Part I	Distributions
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All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	<u>0</u>
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2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
EIN(s): _____

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	
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Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment.....

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation.....

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

***COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE
STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN***

Financial Report

December 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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Trustee and Board of Directors
Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements (Continued)



Management is also responsible for maintaining a current Plan instrument, including all Plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and; therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Emphasis of Matter – Investments



As discussed in Note 3, the financial statements include an investment representing 100 percent of total assets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, whose fair value has been estimated by an independent appraisal, in the absence of readily ascertainable fair values, with the assistance of management and approved by the Trustee. Because of the inherent uncertainty of the valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a market for the investment existed, and the difference could be material.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule, is fairly stated, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Wardig, Szymanski & Company, P.S.C.

Louisville, Kentucky
October 10, 2024

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023			2022		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS						
Investment in Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock at fair value	\$ 1,391,772	\$ 8,996,228	\$ 10,388,000	\$ 753,215	\$ 6,728,785	\$ 7,482,000
LIABILITIES						
Note payable	<u>0</u>	<u>878,924</u>	<u>878,924</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>908,356</u>	<u>908,356</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 1,391,772</u>	<u>\$ 8,117,304</u>	<u>\$ 9,509,076</u>	<u>\$ 753,215</u>	<u>\$ 5,820,429</u>	<u>\$ 6,573,644</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Additions			
Net appreciation in Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock at fair value	\$ 292,548	\$ 2,613,452	\$ 2,906,000
Employer contributions	17,335	38,606	55,941
Allocation of 3,331 shares of Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock at fair value	<u>346,009</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>346,009</u>
Total additions	<u>655,892</u>	<u>2,652,058</u>	<u>3,307,950</u>
Deductions			
Distributions to participants	17,335	0	17,335
Allocation of 3,331 shares of Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock at fair value	0	346,009	346,009
Interest expense	<u>0</u>	<u>9,174</u>	<u>9,174</u>
Total deductions	<u>17,335</u>	<u>355,183</u>	<u>372,518</u>
Net increase	638,557	2,296,875	2,935,432
Net assets available for benefits:			
Beginning of year	<u>753,215</u>	<u>5,820,429</u>	<u>6,573,644</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,391,772</u>	<u>\$ 8,117,304</u>	<u>\$ 9,509,076</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation

The following brief description of the Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. (Company) established the Plan effective as of January 1, 2020. The Plan operates, in relevant part, as a leveraged employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC), as amended, and is subject to the applicable provisions of ERISA. The Plan is administered by the Company. The Company's Board of Directors has appointed an independent third-party Trustee.

On June 4, 2020, the Plan purchased 100,000 shares of the Company's common stock for \$1,000,000 using the proceeds of a borrowing issued by the Company (see Note 5) and holds the common stock in a trust established under the Plan. The stock was purchased at a price of \$10.00 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,000,000.

The borrowing is collateralized by the unallocated shares of common stock and is guaranteed by the Company. The Company, as the lender, has no rights against shares of common stock once they are allocated to participants in accordance with the terms of the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to:

1. the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated common stock (allocated), and
2. common stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated).

Eligibility

Employees of the Company are generally eligible to become participants of the Plan who have one year of service and are 21 or older. Once eligible, participants can enter the Plan at two entry dates during the Plan year on January 1 and July 1. Participants who have not completed 1,000 hours of service during such Plan year, or are not actively employed on the last day of the Plan year, are generally ineligible for an allocation of Company contributions and forfeitures for such year.

Contributions

The Company is obligated to make contributions in cash to the Plan which, when aggregated with the Plan's dividend and interest earnings (if any), equal the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its note payable. Additional contributions may be made at the Company's discretion. Employee contributions are not permitted.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Payment of Benefits

Distributions on account of death, disability, or retirement generally can be made in the form of a lump-sum or installments after the Plan year valuation following the event. Distributions for termination or other separations from service commence in the fifth Plan year following the separation from service and are made in five annual installments. The amount to be distributed is based upon the immediately preceding valuation date. Distributions are made in the form of cash. The amount to be distributed is based upon the account valuation date immediately preceding the distribution.

Under the provisions of the Plan, the Company is obligated to repurchase participant shares, which have been distributed under the terms of the Plan if the shares are not publicly traded or if the shares are subject to trading limitations.

Administrative Expenses

As provided in the Plan agreement, administrative expenses may be paid either by the Plan or by the Company. The Company paid the administrative expenses for the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Voting Rights

Each participant is entitled to exercise voting rights attributable to the shares allocated to his or her account and is notified by the Trustee prior to the time that such rights are to be exercised. The Trustee is not permitted to vote any allocated share for which instructions have not been given by a participant. The Trustee is required; however, to vote any unallocated shares on behalf of the collective best interest of the Plan participants and beneficiaries.

Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account is credited as the note payment is made to release shares with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account and forfeitures of terminated participants' nonvested accounts. Only those participants who are eligible employees of the Company as of the last day of the Plan year will receive an allocation. Allocations are based on the participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation of the Plan. Plan earnings are allocated to each participant's account based on the ratio of the participant's account balance, relative to the total account balances of the Plan.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1 – Plan Description and Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Vesting

If a participant's employment with the Company ends for any reason other than retirement, permanent disability, or death, he or she will vest in the balances in his or her account based on total years of service with the Company. Vesting begins at 20 percent after two years of service with participants becoming fully vested after six years of service.

Put Option

Under federal income tax regulations, the employer common stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least ten years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25 percent of shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified. In the sixth year, the participant is able to direct the investment of 50 percent of their account balance. Participants who elect to diversify receive a cash distribution. The election to diversify is made subsequent to year-end based upon the shares of employer stock in the participant's account at year-end.

Forfeitures

Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's eligible compensation to total eligible compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures of terminated nonvested account balances allocated to remaining participants as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 totaled \$39,902 and \$2,259, respectively.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Allocations

The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock (allocated), and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (unallocated), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The shares of the Company common stock are reported at fair value. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of the Company's common stock are recorded on a trade-date basis. Net appreciation in fair value of the Company's common stock includes the Plan's gains and losses on the Company's common stock bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 3 – Investments

The Plan's investments at December 31, 2023 and 2022 are presented in the following table:

	2023		2022	
	Allocated	Unallocated	Allocated	Unallocated
Company common stock:				
Number of shares	13,398	86,602	10,067	89,933
Cost	\$ 133,980	\$ 866,020	\$ 100,670	\$ 899,330
Estimated fair value	\$ 1,391,772	\$ 8,996,228	\$ 753,215	\$ 6,728,785

The fair value per share of Company common stock as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$103.88 and \$74.82, respectively.

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the Financial Accounting Standards Board ASC 820 are described as follows:

Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specific (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full-term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value.

The valuation process involves the ESOP Trustee's selection of an independent appraiser. Plan management accumulates the data for the appraiser from the reviewed financial statements of the Company. The appraiser prepares a preliminary report which Plan management, along with the ESOP Trustee, reviews in detail, discusses, and approves.

The Company common stock held by the Plan is reported at fair value based upon an independent appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a weight of 75 percent of the discounted cash flow method, 15 percent of the guideline transaction method, and ten percent of the guideline public company method for the year ended December 31, 2023, and 75 percent of the discounted cash flow method and 25 percent of the guideline public company method for the year ended December 31, 2022. The ESOP Trustee selected a new appraiser as of December 31, 2023 and the appraiser deemed the weighted current year methods as a more appropriate method than the prior year weighted methods, resulting in a change in method for the year ended December 31, 2023.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investment in Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,388,000	\$ 10,388,000

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investment in Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc. common stock	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 7,482,000	\$ 7,482,000

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 4 – Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The Plan repurchased approximately 232 shares from participants valued at \$17,335 of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023. These shares were subsequently reallocated to the remaining participants in the Plan.

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's Level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	<u>Investment in Company Common Stock</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 7,482,000
Unrealized appreciation in estimated fair value	<u>2,906,000</u>
Balance at end of year	<u><u>\$ 10,388,000</u></u>
The amount of total gains for the period included in changes in net assets attributable to the change in unrealized appreciation relating to assets still held at the reporting date	<u><u>\$ 2,906,000</u></u>

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets for the year above are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments in the statement of changes in assets available for benefits.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

Note 5 – Note Payable

In 2020, the Plan entered into a \$1,000,000 stock purchase agreement with the Company for the purchase of 100,000 shares of stock. The proceeds of the loan were used to repurchase Company common stock that had been redeemed by the Company. Unallocated shares are collateral for the loan. Shares are released from collateral and allocated to participants as payments of principal and interest are made. The number of shares released in any year is the number of shares held as collateral, times the ratio of the current year payments divided by the total of this year's payments, plus all future years' principal and interest payments. This resulted in 3,331 shares being released and allocated for the Plan year ended December 31, 2023.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 5 – Note Payable (Continued)

The agreement provides the loan to be repaid in future annual installments of principal and interest through December 31, 2049. The fair value of the note payable as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$878,924 and \$908,356, respectively. The scheduled amortization of the loan is as follows:

2024	\$ 29,730
2025	30,030
2026	30,333
2027	30,640
2028	30,949
Thereafter	<u>727,242</u>
	<u>\$ 878,924</u>

Total interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$9,174.

Note 6 – Administration of Plan Assets

The Plan's assets, which consist solely of Company common stock, are held by the Trustee of the Plan.

Company contributions are held and managed by the Trustee, which invest cash received, interest, and dividend income (if any) and makes distributions to participants. The Trustee also administers the payment of principal and interest on the loan.

Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan. The Company pays directly any other fees related to the Plan's operations.

Note 7 – Related Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

The Plan invests in Company common stock and has indebtedness with the Company. These are related party and party-in-interest transactions. As described in Note 1, the Company pays all Plan expenses. The Plan has a number of service providers. Such providers are parties-in-interest under ERISA.

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 8 – Plan Termination

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to Plan provisions. Upon termination of the Plan, the Company directs the Trustee to pay all liabilities and expenses of the ESOP and to sell shares of financed common stock held as collateral to the extent it determines such sale to be necessary in order to repay the loan. Subsequently, the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participant or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the IRC.

Note 9 – Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated August 26, 2020, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. The Plan administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and; therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the federal and state taxing authorities. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing authorities; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 10 – Risk and Uncertainties

The Plan investments consist solely of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings, cash flows, and other such techniques. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in estimates and assumptions, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near-term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Note 11 – Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 10, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

--- SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE ---

COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

PLAN SPONSOR: COX'S SMOKERS OUTLET, INC.

PLAN SPONSOR EIN: 85-0879429

PLAN NUMBER: 001

ATTACHMENT TO SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

December 31, 2023

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower lessor or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Cost	Current value
*	Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc.	13,398 shares common stock allocated	\$ 133,980	\$ 1,391,772
*	Cox's Smokers Outlet, Inc.	86,602 shares common stock unallocated	866,020	8,996,228
			<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,388,000</u>

* Party-in-interest

See independent auditor's report.

